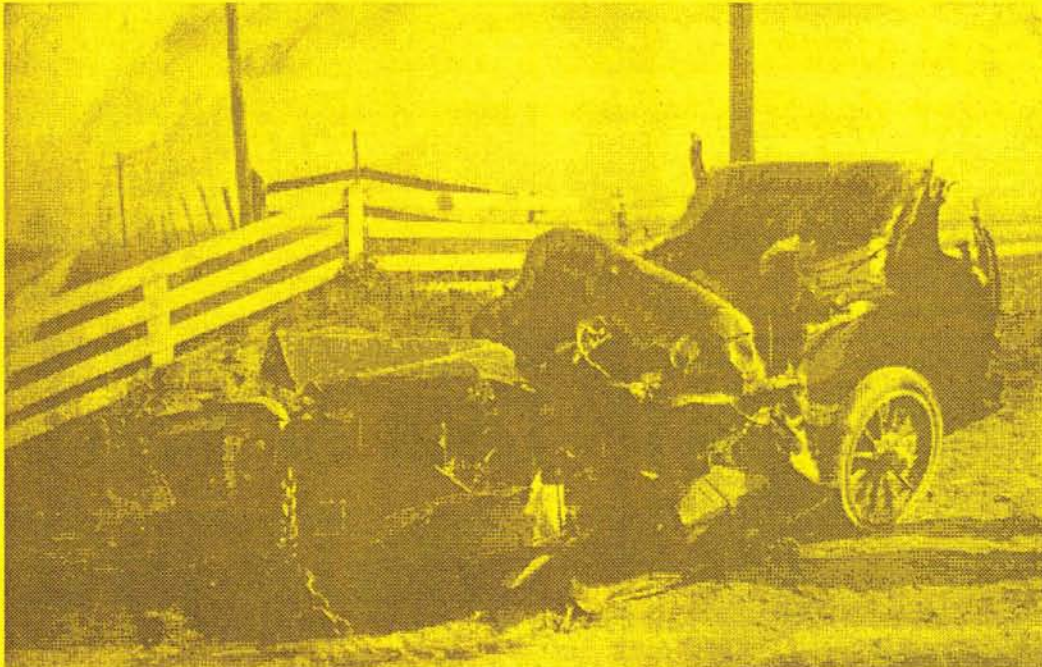


# **San Leandro Computer Club**

# **JOURNAL**

August, 1992  
Economy Edition



The above delivery van, reportedly carrying the entire supply of production Atari Falcon computers from the Port of Oakland to the Atari warehouse in Sunnyvale, was involved in an accident on the infamous Nimitz Freeway, completely destroying its contents. It is expected that this will significantly delay the planned introduction of Atari's new computer line.

User groups planning the second occasional Northern California Atari Expo are consulting with Atari on whether to further postpone that event from its currently scheduled December 12 -13 date until more Falcons can be delivered. They are also trying to find a fall guy to take the blame for not informing all those Atari enthusiasts who showed up at the San Jose Civic Auditorium on July 25 and 26 for the Expo that wasn't.

Hey, isn't that fill style in the masthead upside down? If it's not one thing it's another!



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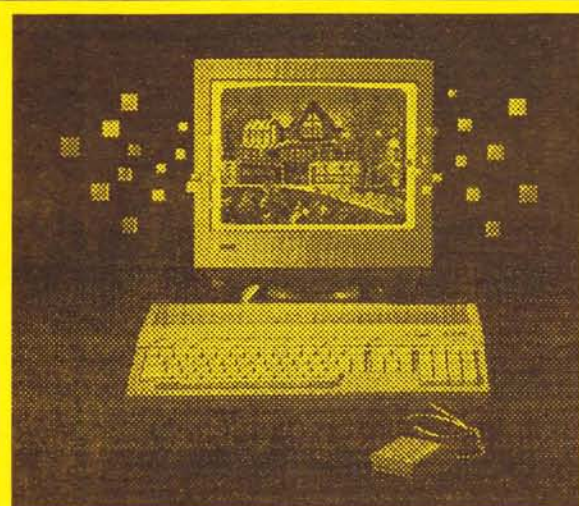
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Someone recently asked about genealogy programs for the ST, so, from the June 1992 newsletter of the ACE of Syracuse, NY we crib the following article.

## Genealogy and Your ST

by Len Barker

If they think about it at all, most people regard genealogy as a possible hobby for retirement. The problem is that by the time they reach retirement, sweet Aunt Millie has passed away taking most of the family history with her.

Your computer is an ideal tool to capture, sort and display genealogy data. You should at least capture the trunk of your Family Tree while data is readily available.

The pursuit of family roots can bring you into a personal relationship with history and, in moderation, can give focus and spice to vacation trips.

For example, I stood on the spot where my Father's Great Uncle fought in fierce hand-to-hand combat, reportedly the worst of the Civil War, on the Spotsylvania battlefield - it so happens - against a New York Regiment.

The software I use is called "Compute Your Roots" by Wasatch Genealogical Software, 2899 West 7550 South, West Jordan, Utah 84084, Phone 801/483-3357. I paid \$32.99 for it at L&Y Electronics in Virginia. It may have been the first

such program available for the ST.

It was severely panned by *Current Notes* when it first came out, but I bought a later revision, Version 3.0.

Recently, Version 3.1 has been released enhancing the program somewhat, but the programmer (a young man in college when the program was first offered) has the quaint idea that subscribers should pay for correcting his program bugs! (Actually I never discovered any.)

I've heard of two other genealogy programs for the ST. One, developed by a Steve Barker (no known relative, but with a name like that it has to be good!) of flying Pigs Software, PO Box 688, St. George, UT 84700. The other (see pg 12, Dec '919 AtariUser) is "All Relative and Bookmaker," the latter for publishing your family tree in book format, by Randall Kopchak, 2233 Keeven lane, Florissant, MO 63031.

From the verbal descriptions of genealogy programs for the ST, MacIntosh, and IBM compatibles, it appears to me that they all operate in similar fashion. For "Compute Your Roots," one enters data on each individual: name, date and place of birth and death, and the like. Then



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An independent, non-profit organization of Atari microcomputer users. Membership provides access to the club print and magnetic libraries, subscription to the *Journal* and participation in club activities. A membership application may be obtained by contacting Jim Moran at 865-6122.

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Beginners ST	Jim Moran	865-6122
Beginners 8-Bit	Glen Fowler	530-7128
Business	Ralf Herman (408)	257-7760
Publishing	Ray Thomas	791-9158

## CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	Main Meeting 8:00 p.m. San Leandro Library	4	5	6	7
8	9	ST Meeting 8:00 p.m. San Leandro Library	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



one tells the computer how to arrange these individuals in families: Father, Mother, Child, date and place of marriage, etc. The computer does the rest. Possible outputs include a Family Tree, Individual and Family Group Records, etc. Unfortunately, one can't print out a Descendants List with "Compute Your Roots" - typical for all genealogy programs.

"Compute Your Roots" has a very flexible sorting routine. But with my non-upgraded 520STfm the routine for a very simple and highly-desirable sort banged my Floppy Disk for 20 minutes while spitting out less than a page of names from a list of three or four pages! Out of concern for my Disk Drive, I cut the sorting process short and kept score by hand; degrading to do in front of a potent computer.

Inquiries to the programmer resulted in no satisfaction, and I could find no solution by hacking. But, after I upgraded my RAM, I used a RAM-disk to do the sorting. This was satisfactory, although it still took an amazingly long time considering the speed of my RAM. Either the sorting routine is unbelievably inefficient or (more probable) the file system is cumbersome.

Still, the program is satisfactory for my use. It comes with an excellent Instruction Manual.

The program was developed to accommodate records for the Church of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormon), as I believe all such programs were, but fields for these data may be turned off.

The only problem is that one would like to use these data fields for other data, such as recording where the listed data was found. I hacked my copy of the program using MEMFILE30.ACC to steal these fields for my use, but was only partially successful.

The revised version 3.0 that I have permits one to attach essentially unlimited data on an individual or family. But to do this one has to exit the program and use a

Word Processor to create an ASCII text file with program handles. Once this is done, this reference file is easily accessible from, and may be printed out by, the genealogy program. I use this data file to store appropriate newspaper accounts of weddings, obituaries, and the like.

References as to where data were found, such as the applicable census year and district, title and location of genealogy books, etc., may also be stored in the ASCII file. But it would be nice to be able to record these data in abbreviated form on the Individual Data records directly.

Mormon tabernacles are an excellent source of genealogy data because of this church's beliefs. The one in Salt Lake City undoubtedly contains the best genealogy resources in the world.

We have a tabernacle here in Syracuse, on Colvin Street. All tabernacle genealogy departments I've used have been cooperative, but the Syracuse one has limited data and is understandably sensitive to visitors rummaging around their files. Others have very complete data and permit essentially unlimited, free access once you've learned their system. The data are on microfiche.

An excellent source of data, if you're lucky, is to find a genealogy book covering your family or the region in which they lived. These can best be found in genealogy libraries of State Capitols and can prove to be enormous time-savers. But our own Syracuse (downtown) Library has a suprisingly good collection of books on genealogy.

Some libraries have old newspapers on film. If you know a death date, perhaps obtained from cemetery records, newspaper obituaries can yield a lot of valuable information.

If your family came from the Syracuse area, genealogy data may be obtained from censuses at the Court House. The key operative phrase (often very necessary to gain access to any genealogy archives), in answer to questions as to why you

want to see their data, is "to investigate family health problems." That seems to open doors which otherwise remain closed. Of special value in tracking a mobile family in Syracuse are the City Directories which were published every year over quite a timespan.

Genealogy data seem easier to acquire in the Southern States, although much data were lost due to Court House fires during the Civil War. But it's amazing how freely one can paw through 100-year-old court documents that are about ready to fall apart. Court House documents may contain information on marriages, property sales, the execution of wills, homestead applications, and the like.

The National Archives in Washington, DC, is a prime source of genealogy data. Census data that have survived are available on rolls of film. "Soundex" is a system used to locate these rolls by the sound of people's name. This is because census takers and immigration officials often spell names in different ways by perceived sounds.

In addition to census data, the Archives also have military service and ship passenger records and a limited number of genealogy books. But it helps to have a few leads before you visit the Archives or you might spend a lot of time with little reward.

Searching for your roots in this country in the years before about 1820 gets a bit sticky since census records are not nearly so complete as in later years: only adult men and animals seem to have been of interest. Women and children were counted in age groups and not by their given names.

Tracing your roots overseas may be even more difficult - unless you're a blue-blood.

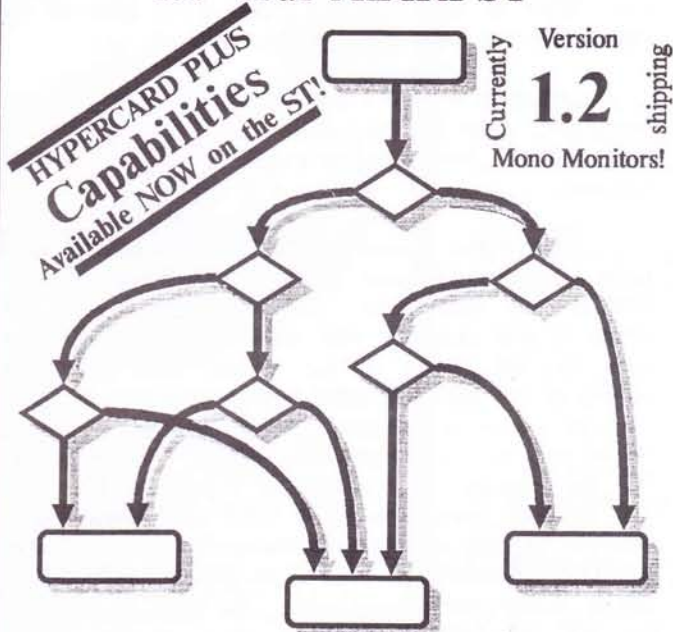
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**Expert system shell:** Create an expert system which uses logic as well as tree nets to reach conclusions. Images as well as text can be related to logical nets of information.

This is the program many of us have been waiting for on the ST. You can create complex structures of data with and without graphics easily. Searches are lightning fast. German magazines have raved about 1st Card and you will too!

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# FOUR 8-BIT DISKS

by Bob Scholer SLCC 8-bit Software Chairman

SLCC DISK - July 1992

## ABOUT THIS D.O.M.

This disk has eleven user programs: four Games, two DEMOs, two Educational, and three Utilities (one being another update of the SLCC MENU.MYD). One of the Games (PACKMAN) runs under Turbo Basic, so it requires an XL/XE (it also runs under ATARI Basic, but very s-l-o-w-l-y). All the others will run under ATARI Basic. All have DOCs or include Instructions. The two DEMOs are outstanding! One of the ED programs (NUMB.GAM.BAS) is for preschoolers. The Utilities are explained below.

## CONTENTS (Disk #1007)

### FRONT:-

DEMO2.BIN- RESET changes stages.  
CATCH88.COM- puzzle; (with DOC).  
KNIGHT.COM- another puzzle & DOC.  
JOYSTICK.COM- use J/S for above.  
MENU.MYD- MYDOS Menu with word wrap!  
3 DOCs:- CATCH88, KNIGHT, PACKMAN.

### BACK:-

PACKMAN.ARB- strategy and action.  
Use J/S; fine graphics; tough!  
Uses Turbo Basic; has 5 files.  
UNLZH.COM- uncompresses 'LZH' files.  
SPEDREAD.BAS- speed up reading  
NUMB.GAM.BAS- for preschoolers.  
LITTLE.BIN- use START & OPTION.  
WRDSCH.BAS- an oldie, but good!  
BACKPRINT.BAS- print in background.  
MOUSE; TRAKBALL; & TABLET (\*.COM)

## PROGRAM COMMENTS

PACKMAN.ARB by Robert Stuart is from PAGE SIX Magazine #55. It's much different than classic PACMAN. It has six increasingly difficult levels, featuring outstanding Graphics. This disk is set up to run it in Turbo Basic (XL/XE only). The five files required are on the back of the disk, marked \* (locked) to identify them. To play, just boot the back. To run it in ATARI Basic (800 owners) use the menu from the front.

CATCH88.COM & KNIGHT.COM are by Simon Trew of the London ACE! who has also written drivers for J/S, Mouse, Touch Tablet, and Trackball. All four driver (\*.COM) files are on this disk; J/S on the front, the others on the back. A discussion, and loading instructions are in the CATCH88.DOC file. Both games are puzzles, and both are fully documented. I got them from the AIM disk for June 1992. Plug your J/S into the #2 port.

WRDSCH.BAS (Word Search) was downloaded from

Compuserve by Bob Woolley. It's obviously an oldie, but well written. Instructions are part of the program. I don't know who wrote it. It's easy to add to or to modify.

DEMO2.BIN is an impressive DEMO from overseas. Press RESET to move from one stage of the DEMO to the next. This too, came from the June 1992 AIM disk.

LITTLE.BIN may be a little DEMO, but it's still very impressive. From the High Tech Team. START and OPTION keys move you from stage to stage. It's from the same AIM disk.

SPEDREAD.BAS (Speed reading) is a speed-reading tutor. Written by Clark Morrow, it was published in COMPUTE! #53 (Oct. 1984). It flashes phrases on the screen at your choice of four speeds. While the phrases flash on the center of the screen, keep your eyes focused in the middle to avoid reading from left to right. At first a menu is displayed. You select the speed with OPTION and the line length with SELECT. Push START to run the program. Hold OPTION to return to the menu. It's best to start with short lines and medium speed. Remember to keep your eyes on the center of the screen. It's easy to modify the program in several ways, and to add or change the reading text. The lines to edit are Mos. 670 and 2100 to the end. Look up the article before you do this.

NUMB.GAM.BAS is a recognition game with enlarged numbers. Recommended for preschool children. It's by Lou Tylee, from COMPUTE! #53.

UNLZH.COM by Robert Puff, is a utility to Un-LZH files! ST's and PCs use this compression method. It uses less space than ARCing files. If you've used Super UnArc by R. Puff, you'll have no trouble with it! From ABACUS' 4/92 DOM.

BACKPRINT.BAS (Background printer) is by Angelo Giambra from ANALOG #53 (April 1987). This program installs a device handler (called "B:") which lets you use your computer even while your printer is working. Put a disk with DOS in drive 1, then RUN the program. It will write "B:" to this disk as an AUTORUN.SYS. Reboot from this disk; make sure your printer is on line; now load the file you want to print into memory, and type LIST "B:". You'll get the READY prompt, and you can use the computer while the printer does its thing in the background. You must not remove the disk in drive 1 during this process, but you can read and write to it. You can't call DOS and ATARIWRITER isn't compatible. See the article for other tips and cautions.

Our SLCC MENU.MYD program (FULL menu for MYDOS) is now revised to include word wrap in its Text reader, thanks to David Paterson of MACAM.



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# August Meeting

We have a nice surprise for the meeting this month, a speaker/demo! Vince Garcia will bring his Radio Controlled Aircraft simulator that puts you "on the air" with your choice of model aircraft - including such exotic animals as a jet and a helicopter. This is really something to see and experience. Not a joystick / mouse device, this ST - based product uses a specially modified Futaba R/C console that works just like the real thing. Come early and stay late for hands-on action that's hard to put down!

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